

REMARKS

Claims 8-13 and 27-36 in the parent application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JPA2000-34388 (Onoe et al). That rejection of the presently-pending claims should not be repeated for the following reasons.

Onoe et al discloses a hydrophilic polymer composition comprising (A) a block copolymer having a hydrophilic group-containing block chain and a hydrophobic group-containing block chain, wherein the ratio of the number of hydrophilized constituent monomer unit based on the number of constituent monomer units of the hydrophilic group-containing block chain is equal to or more than 50% and (B) at least one (co)polymer selected from the group consisting of a (co)polymer containing no hydrophilic group and a (co)polymer containing a hydrophilic group at a content of not more than 1.5mmol/g. ([0005]). The block copolymer (A) may be emulsified in an aqueous medium and the (co)polymer (B) emulsified in the aqueous medium (claim 2). Onoe et al also discloses that the hydrophilic group may be, for example, a sulfonic acid group, carboxylic acid group, phosphoric acid group, amine group, amide group or hydroxy group, with sulfonic acid group and carboxylic acid group being preferable, and sulfonic acid group being more preferable ([0006]) and further, that the content of a polar functional group in the block copolymer having a hydrophilic group is preferably not less than 50 mol%, more preferably not less than 70 mol %, still more preferably not less than 80 mol %, based on the total monomer unit of the polymer block having a hydrophilic group, and which content gives sufficient hydrophilicity to the block copolymer ([0027]). In sum, Onoe et al prefers a sulfonic acid group to a carboxylic acid group; that the content of a polar functional group be not less than 50 mol% based on the total monomer unit of the polymer block having a hydrophilic group; and that the higher the polar functional group content, the better the result achieved.

On the other hand, the present invention, as recited in Claim 8, recites an aqueous dispersion, comprising:

i) an aqueous dispersion of a block copolymer (I) comprising:

at least one polymer block (A) consisting essentially of olefin monomer units and at least one polymer block (B) consisting essentially of 2 to 45 mole percent of units derived from at least one vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group or carboxylic anhydride group and 98 to 55 mole percent of units derived from another vinyl monomer or monomers copolymerizable with the carboxyl group- or carboxylic anhydride group-containing vinyl monomer, in an aqueous solution of not less than 0.05 equivalent, relative to the carboxyl or carboxylic anhydride group, of a basic substance, and

ii) an aqueous dispersion or an aqueous solution of a vinyl polymer (III) incorporated in the aqueous dispersion (I).

Thus, the present invention employs a block copolymer (I) having a polymer block (B) consisting essentially of a structural unit derived from a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group or carboxylic anhydride group, which group is less preferred in Onoe et al to a sulfonic acid group and not exemplified in any of Onoe et al's examples, with a content of which of 2 to 45 mole % of the total monomer unit of the polymer block (B), which content is below the 50% recommended minimum threshold of Onoe et al.

The present invention is based on a finding, which is not disclosed nor suggested by Onoe et al, that the combined use of the above-described specific block copolymer (I) and a vinyl polymer (III) can give an aqueous dispersion which has good adhesiveness, especially airtight adhesiveness to various substrates, good stability, and results in a coating layer having excellent water resistance, weather resistance and the like.

In addition, while it is submitted that no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been made out, relevant data appear in the specification, specifically Tables 3, 4, 7 and 8, which

Application No. 10/616,907

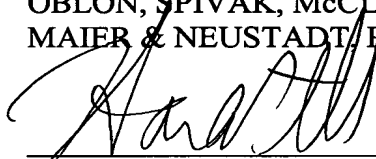
indicates improved adhesiveness of the presently-claimed invention with regard to polar resins such as PA6 and EVOH..

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the presently-pending claims are patentable over Onoe et al.

An early examination is otherwise respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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